

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Joint Statement on the ASEAN-Japan Mutually Beneficial Partnership on Environment and Climate Change for Materializing New Growth

4 September 2025, Langkawi, Malaysia

We, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and Japan, gathered at the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue for Environment and Climate Change (AJMDEC) in conjunction with the 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) on 4 September 2025:

RECALLING the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and the Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE) launched at the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change (AJMDEC) in the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in 2023, the Japan-ASEAN Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0 proposed at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in 2018, as well as the ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative of 2017;

ACKNOWLEDGING the various activities following the adoption of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Leaders' Joint Statement and its Action Plan for Next Decade at the 2nd AZEC Leaders Meeting on October 2024;

AFFIRMING the critical importance of ASEAN and Japan cooperation in forging a trusted, co-creative partnership for enhancing the environmental quality of the ASEAN region as a whole, as well as facilitating the role of business in providing solutions that contribute to prosperity and mutual benefits for ASEAN and Japan, as well as to supporting global environment protection efforts;

REAFFIRMING the will to promote decarbonization investment for realizing net zero to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement;

WELCOMING the submission of the Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by the ASEAN Member States in the context of the Paris Agreement, as well as the National Biodiversity Strategies

and Action Plans (NBSAP) under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

RECOGNIZING that resource circularity complements deployment of decarbonization technologies towards GHG emissions reduction and realizing net zero;

RECALLING the UNEP/EA.6/RES.4 for Promoting synergies, cooperation and collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments;

RECOGNIZING the importance of promoting synergies between measures to tackle the global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and maximizing synergies and minimizing trade-offs as part of efforts to addressing issues in areas such as the economy, energy security, disaster prevention, food supply, biodiversity conservation, inequality, and sustainable development;

WELCOMING the outcomes of the ASEAN-Japan climate and environmental cooperation delivered to date in the region, including, inter alia, implementation of more than 200 JCM projects, more than 40 city-to-city cooperation initiatives among cities of ASEAN and Japan, formulation of decarbonization policies including improvement of transparency of facility-level GHG emissions under the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI), accelerating the development of carbon markets as well as capacity building efforts and carbon market formulation;

RECOGNIZING the regional diversity and the importance of an inclusive approach to accommodate the needs and engage a wide range of stakeholders in the partnership, including local actors and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);

RECOGNIZING also that ASEAN is an important region for ensuring the effectiveness of measures against plastic pollution;

ACKNOWLEDGING the contributions of ASEAN-Japan cooperation in helping achieve a higher level of well-being of the peoples of ASEAN and Japan, including new green economy and growth opportunities;

Hereby agree to:

1. **Contribute** to building an enabling environment through integration of environment, economy and society, to generate integrated and synergetic benefits and expanding private sector investment including through public-private partnerships and co-financing that facilitates improvement of environmental quality and sustainable development.
2. **Encourage** a co-creation relationship by leveraging innovation business collaboration, rulemaking, knowledge sharing, and technology development.
3. **Strive** to enhance global public goods and sustainability through internationally coordinated actions on emission reduction based on the Paris Agreement and biodiversity conservation through the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as international cooperation to solve other regional and local environmental pollution challenges including waste, air and water pollution.
4. **Strengthen** the ASEAN-Japan partnership on circular economy in view of the importance of circular economy on the global agenda.
5. **Collaborate** on implementation of measures in the ASEAN region to address plastic pollution.

We express our commitment to continue convening the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue Environmental Climate Change (AJMDEC), and implement the above through the updated Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE) 2025.

Annex to the Joint Statement

STRATEGIC PROGRAM FOR ASEAN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT (SPACE) 2025

1. Background

ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Japan have a long history of environmental cooperation as symbolized by the “ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative”, proposed by former Prime Minister Abe in 2017 and the following various summit-level environmental initiatives. Addressing the needs of AMS, active cooperation has evolved in climate change, waste management, and marine plastic debris. The cooperation between ASEAN and Japan has certainly contributed to the advancement of environmental actions in the region.

The year 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation, and the “ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting for the 50th Year of Friendship and Cooperation” was held in December. We committed further strengthen the cooperation between Japan and AMS in the commemorative year and address the unprecedented triple global crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Japan proposed to step up its cooperation and launched a new initiative “Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE)” in addition to “ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative” and “ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0” in the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change (AJMDEC) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 24 August 2023. At the 3rd AJMDEC held in 2-5 September at Langkawi, Malaysia, the SPACE is upgraded based on Joint Statement on the ASEAN-Japan Mutually Beneficial Partnership on Environment and Climate Change for Materializing New Growth.

2. Objective

The ultimate goal of the proposed program is to support AMS to address the unprecedented triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution that are mutually reinforcing and intrinsically linked, as well as an ongoing global energy crisis. It is important and urgent to tackle the triple global crisis through the implementation of global frameworks such as the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework among others, in an integrated manner in line with ASEAN Vision 2020. To this end, the program will expand investment for environment including decarbonization, as well as step up the former cooperation initiative, based on the needs and priorities of the region.

3. Outline

“Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE)” consists of the following three pillars:

1. Climate Change
 - 1-1. Transparency
 - 1-2. Mitigation
 - 1-3. Adaptation and Loss & Damage
 - 1-4. Joint Implementation Tracking
2. Pollution
 - 2-1. ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Action Agenda on Plastic Pollution
 - 2-2. ASEAN-Japan Resource Circulation Partnerships on E-Waste, ELV and Critical Minerals (ARCPEEC)
 - 2-3. Other Pollution Issues and Cooperation Agenda
3. Biodiversity
 - 3-1. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Implementation Support, including capacity building through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and measures against invasive alien species
 - 3-2. Share good practices in business and technical information on nature and ecosystem

4. Nature of the initiative and its implementation arrangements

SPACE is the overarching framework for cooperation activities to facilitate future cooperation between AMS and Japan on environment and climate change. It does not seek to duplicate or impede existing / ongoing activities between AMS and Japan. The new initiative will complement and reinforce ongoing activities. Ongoing projects will be under previous initiatives, namely “ASEAN-Japan

Environmental Cooperation Initiative” and “ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0” while new projects will be under SPACE. Therefore, environmental cooperation between AMS and Japan will be transformed into SPACE.

SPACE is a testament to the commitment by Japan to support AMS to promote climate change actions and environmental protection in the ASEAN region. Annexes of this document (Annex 1, Annex 2, and Annex 3) enlist the cooperation activities, which Japan can offer to AMS. While all AMS will be invited to participate in all activities, each AMS may decide to prioritize their participation in some activities over others based on their respective national circumstances, domestic policies and priorities, and resource constraints. In the implementation stage, each activity is facilitated between each AMS and Japan and reported to relevant ASEAN Working Groups in due course.

SPACE is a living document and could be updated according to the progress of each project and the needs, view and input of AMS.

Annex 1. New Cooperation Menu on the Climate Change

1-1. Transparency

- 1-1-1. Reinforcing the promotion of harmonized GHG Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in AMS through Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI)
- 1-1-2. Development and implementation of facility level Measurement and Reporting (M&R) framework for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with engagement of state and non-state actors in ASEAN member states (AMS) (PaSTI)
- 1-1-3. Under the Support Initiative for Transparency in Asia (SITA), support for development of the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR), including enhancing knowledge sharing, capacity development and institutional arrangements for data collection and development of country-specific emission factors for GHG inventories, tracking progress of implementation and achievement of NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
- 1-1-4. Improving accuracy of GHG emission reports by using estimation technologies with Japanese Satellites (GOSAT series)
- 1-1-5. Formulation of pilot projects for climate-related financial disclosure by the private sector through the supply chain for financial institutions to understand and access climate risk information

1-2. Mitigation

- 1-2-1. Formulation, Update and Implementation of decarbonization policy instruments
 - 1-2-1-1. Development of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030 (ACCSAP), building upon prioritized actions for adaptation and mitigation in the “ASEAN State of Climate Change Report (ASCCR)”

1-2-1-2. Support for formulation of the Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy, NDC and implementation harnessing Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) for AMS towards realizing net zero

1-2-2. Decarbonization of Each Sector

1-2-2-1. Financing support for projects to reduce methane emissions through the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

1-2-2-2. Through the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan, development, demonstration and dissemination of technologies for building resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems through innovation such as reducing GHG emission

1-2-2-3. Promoting sustainable wood use in AMS to foster a decarbonized society and a circular economy through the contribution to International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

1-2-3. Dissemination of Decarbonization Technologies

1-2-3-1. Capacity building for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement towards building high integrity carbon markets through the Article 6 Implementation Partnership

1-2-3-2. Promoting utilization of carbon market bilateral cooperation in line with Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, including Joint Crediting Mechanism

1-2-3-3. Supporting the introduction of CCUS in ASEAN through the formulation of CCUS technical guideline

1-2-3-4. Facilitating a continuous exchange and dissemination of know-how on technology development - with AMS through i) studying AMS needs of technology dissemination of know-how and available exchange mechanisms, ii) cooperation on competency development and potential project development on decarbonization technologies and iii) provision of technology matching between AMS and Japan and

financing support, iv) cooperation to validate the effects of decarbonization technologies utilizing satellite such as GOSAT series

1-2-4. Expansion of Zero Carbon Cities

1-2-4-1. Comprehensive and synergetic support to urban agenda through the Clean City Partnership Program (C2P2)

1-3. Adaptation and Loss & Damage

1-3-1. As part of climate change adaptation measures, promotion of cooperation in the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and on disaster management based on the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Disaster Management 2021-2025

1-3-2. Assistance Package for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage, including through practical solutions such as risk insurance schemes or Initiative to Promote the Development of Early Warning Systems (EWS) which goal is to introduce EWS in a majority of ASEAN member state by 2025

1-3-3. Cooperation on development of regional adaptation projects for vulnerable areas to enhance climate change resilience in the ASEAN region

1-3-4. Enhancement of capacities and reproducible approaches on climate risk management of the key stakeholders in ASEAN member state and sharing knowledge and information of external resources on loss and damage from climate change

1-3-5. Promotion of science-based climate change adaptation encompassing primary industry based on the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT)

1-4. Joint Implementation Tracking

1-4-1. In preparation for the second Global Stocktake (GST) at COP33, preparing and disseminating an ASEAN-Japan GST report to accurately reflect the

efforts, technologies, and ideas of Japan and ASEAN, and reflect them in the COP negotiations.

Annex 2-1 ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Action Agenda on Plastic Pollution

1. Background

Increasing amounts of plastics discharged into the environment negatively impacting our life and environment. It is resulting from production and consumption of plastic materials and products across the entire life cycle, including mismanaged waste. Microplastics accounted for 88 % of global plastic leakage, around 19.4 million tons, and is projected to increase to 38.4 million tons in 2060. Mismanaged plastic is the main cause of the leakage, and is estimated high in ASEAN region. Most microplastics, generally as plastic particles defined less than 5 mm in diameter, are resulting from wear and tear of larger plastics. Impact of the microplastics on human health and ecosystems has also become an issue of global concern.

There is strong need to accelerate our action against plastic pollution through entire life cycle of the plastics at all levels with international cooperation especially in ASEAN region.

2. Overarching Objectives and Scope

ASEAN Member States and Japan would like to promote measures against plastic pollution, including microplastics, through a full-life-cycle approach and science-based approach, and to support effective, progressive and concrete actions at all levels and stakeholders including local governments, businesses, academia and scientists, NGOs, citizens, local communities.

In doing so, we aim to contribute to the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, including marine debris, and the development of an international legally binding instrument and its implementation to address plastic pollution and promote circular economy in the ASEAN region, including exploring pilot implementation activities at regional, national or sub-national levels to support early alignment and compliance.

3. Expected Outcomes

- 2-1-1. The formulation and implementation of national action plans, including waste management supported and its experience shared
- 2-1-2. The consolidation and assessment of scientific knowledge that forms the basis of measures, including through tracking and monitoring of plastics in the environment promoted, development of an inventory of related data developed, and assessment of ecological impact of plastics in marine including coastal areas and other environment assessed
- 2-1-3. Awareness on plastic pollution raised through providing fora for an inclusive discussion with stakeholders including subnational governments, civil society and the private sector
- 2-1-4. Enhancement of knowledge sharing and capacity development on plastic pollution including responsible production and producer responsibility through the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris of ERIA (RKC-MPD ERIA)

Annex 2-2 ASEAN-Japan Resource Circulation Partnerships on E-Waste, ELV and Critical Minerals (ARCPEEC)

1. Basic Concept

A rapid economic growth increases the volume of e-waste and ELVs (End-of-Life Vehicle) including batteries along with the growing demand for renewable energy and increasing electrification of vehicles in ASEAN countries, which amounted to 3.5 Mt of e-waste in 2019 and to 2.4 million ELVs in 2020¹ is expected to increase^{1, 2}. However, such e-waste and ELVs including batteries are—mostly disposed in landfill or improperly treated due to lack of—related laws and regulations and proper recycling facilities, causing negative impacts on the environment and health.^{1, 2, 3} It is essential to address such environmental pollution while also increasing circularity and contributing to a net-zero transition.

Drawing on Japan's robust regulatory frameworks and advanced technologies related to recycling and waste treatment, Japan will collaborate with ASEAN countries in support of building regulatory frameworks, disseminating technologies, enhancing capacity building on e-waste and ELV recycling, and promoting environmentally sound waste management. ASEAN and Japan will also promote collecting, recovering, and recycling of critical minerals and materials in e-waste and ELVs, which are necessary for net-zero and more circular economies and minimizing environmental pollution as well as ensuring efficient recovery of critical minerals utilizing world-class processing facilities.

2. Overarching Objectives and Scope

Increasing circularity on electronics, automobiles and other relevant supply chains in ASEAN countries to strengthen supply of critical minerals and raw materials for the transition to a net-zero economy, reducing associated environmental footprints on key supply chains, improving human health, fostering prosperity and enhancing resilience of economies, and collaborating with relevant initiatives and partners such as the ASEAN Framework for Circular Economy.

¹ https://www.eria.org/uploads/media/ERIA_RPR_FY2017_16.pdf

² UNITAR: The Global E-waste Monitor (2020)

³ JICA: Information collection and confirmation survey on E-waste management in Malaysia and neighboring countries (2014)

Promoting environmentally sound recycling of e-waste and ELVs including collection, dismantling, recycling, and treatment as well as recovery of critical minerals and raw materials from dismantled parts.

Promoting the use of recovered critical minerals and raw materials for reducing negative environmental footprints (climate, biodiversity loss, pollution) of the supply chains.

3. Expected Outcomes

2-2-1. Study of the current management and recycling of ELV, including relevant policy and regulations, recycling, waste treatment and the capabilities of stakeholders

2-2-2. Promotion of enabling environment including regulations, standards, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms related to handling e-waste and ELVs including batteries, for proper management of the residues

2-2-3. Promotion of capacity of relevant stakeholders (both public and private) for proper e-waste and ELV recycling, including on the enforcement of such rules and environmentally sound dismantling, processing and treatment of e-waste and ELVs including batteries at local levels, while promoting efficient recovery of critical minerals and raw materials utilizing world-class processing facilities

2-2-4. Explore the application of circular economy frameworks for e-waste and ELV management including through policies on producer responsibility, encouraging recycling and innovation, and aligning resource recovery efforts with national circular economy

2-2-5. Promotion of the uptake of recycled critical minerals and raw materials in key supply chains

Annex 2-3 Other Pollution Issues and Cooperation Agenda

Besides the issues on plastic pollutions (Annex 2.1) and e-waste (Annex 2.2), there are other kinds of pollution-related issues to address, such as water, air, and chemicals. In order to tackle with these challenges following cooperation activities are to be sought:

2-3-1. Water Pollution

- 2-3-1-1. Exchange of knowledge and dialogue on water environmental management of partner countries, sharing the lessons learnt and enhancement of cooperation with donor agencies under the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) and bilateral cooperation
- 2-3-1-2. Feasibility studies and pilot projects of water environment improving technologies to be conducted by the Model Project for Improvement of Water Environment in Asia
- 2-3-1-3. Promote the cooperation for application of Johkasou (decentralized wastewater treatment system) to improve water environment in Asia

2-3-2. Air Pollution

- 2-3-2-1. Science-based policy recommendations under the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)
- 2-3-2-2. Training and research programs on air pollutants management under the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

2-3-3. Chemical Management

- 2-3-3-1. Promote Japan's advance technologies and know-how to strengthen developing countries' mercury management (in the area of mercury-free initiatives in ASGM activities, emission control from the Convention's Annex D source category, waste management, mercury material flow development, pre-ratification policy framework training)

- 2-3-3-2. Supporting the participants from the region to atmospheric mercury monitoring training held by MOEJ
- 2-3-3-3. Holding Youth Dialogues on sound mercury management
- 2-3-3-4. Supporting localized implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), including capacity building through online seminars

Annex 3 Cooperation to Halt and Reverse Biodiversity Loss

1. Basic Concept

It is important to make efforts toward the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was adopted in December 2022. In particular, setting national targets will be a foundation for contribution of each country. ‘Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review’ (CBD COP15, decision 15/6) requires that NBSAPs should be revised or updated, including the revision of national targets, by the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Japan also recognizes the necessity of its revision.

Japan and ASEAN Member States, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, have made efforts for the contribution to biodiversity conservation at national level, including revising its NBSAP with considering whole-of-society approach.

Japan is working together with ASEAN countries, to ensure further contribution from Asia region to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. To this end, Japan will enhance its continuous contribution in the second phase of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the launch of which Japan announced at the second part of the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15.2) to the Convention on Biological Diversity to support the implementation of the KMGBF, including revisions of NBSAPs. Japan will also enhance its continuous contribution to the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative which will also be able to play an active role in these efforts.

2. Overarching Objectives and Scope

The goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework range widely and are linked together. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 requires all of the twenty-three targets of the Framework, none of which cannot be left undone, and it is important to address them in an inclusive manner.

Japan aims to promote Asia region’s contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global

Biodiversity Framework and to maximize nature's contribution to people (NCP) while minimizing the trade-offs of biodiversity loss, which is provided by biodiversity through swiftly revising and implementing NBSAPs, which are the main vehicle for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at national level and strengthening the involvement of several sectors including subnational governments and business/private sector and facilitating knowledge and technical information sharing between Japan and ASEAN countries.

3. Expected Outcomes

3-1. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Implementation Support, including capacity building through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and measures against invasive alien species

3-1-1. Holding regional dialogues held to provide support for the swift revision and updating of NBSAPs and its implementation and reporting through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, and support provided for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including capacity building, and addressing invasive alien species issues through sharing expertise among ASEAN countries about the implementation of each target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

3-1-2. Through participation in the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative and the exchange of its experiences, the implementation of the goals and targets of the GBF at national and subnational levels will be promoted using the concepts of the landscape approach and sustainable agriculture

3-2. Share good practices in business and technical information on nature and ecosystem

3-2-1. Good practices in business, and technical information on nature and capacity building in relation to the involvement of several sectors including subnational governments and business/ private sectors in alignment with the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan and relevant national policy and measures will be shared to contribute to development and implementation of NBSAP and to reaching the relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, including the Target 12 on the management of green

and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas through collaboration with existing organizations such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- 3-2-2. It is necessary to evaluate and disclose the natural environmental impact of corporate business activities in an integrated manner over the entire life cycle. Japan will research and develop Nature Footprint as an indicator for this purpose, and promote awareness of and cooperation with companies in ASEAN countries so that they will also use it